

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell device capable of outputting a signal representing a residual hydrogen amount, comprising:

a tank section for accommodating a plurality of hydrogen storage alloys having mutually different hydrogen desorbing characteristics;

a power generating section for generating electric power by using hydrogen desorbed from the tank section;

a pressure detecting unit for detecting a pressure of the hydrogen supplied to the power generating section; and

an output section for outputting pressure variations caused on the basis of hydrogen desorbing characteristics of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys which are detected by the pressure detecting unit.

2. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell device capable of outputting a signal representing a residual hydrogen amount according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys are accommodated in the tank section such that a mixing ratio of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys can be changed.

3. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell device capable of outputting a signal representing a residual hydrogen amount according to claim 1, wherein the tank section has a space for independently accommodating the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys having the different hydrogen desorbing characteristics.

4. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell device capable of outputting a signal representing a residual hydrogen amount according to claim 1, wherein the output section produces different output signals depending on a plurality of pressure equilibrium states occurring according to the hydrogen desorbing characteristics of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys.

5. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell device capable of outputting a signal representing a residual hydrogen amount according to claim 1, wherein the output section produces signals representing pressure variations in response to changes in a plurality of pressure equilibrium states occurring according to the hydrogen desorbing characteristics of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for outputting a signal representing a residual fuel cell capacity in a system including a tank section for accommodating a plurality of hydrogen storage alloys having mutually different hydrogen desorbing characteristics and a power generating section for generating electric power by using hydrogen desorbed from the tank section, comprising:

a pressure detecting step of detecting a pressure of the hydrogen supplied to the power generating section; and

an outputting step of outputting pressure variations caused on the basis of hydrogen desorbing characteristics of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys which are detected in the pressure detecting step.

7. (Withdrawn) The method for outputting a signal representing a residual fuel cell capacity according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys are accommodated in the tank section such that a mixing ratio of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys can be changed.

8. (Withdrawn) The method for outputting a signal representing a residual fuel cell capacity according to claim 6, wherein the tank section has a space for independently accommodating the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys having the different hydrogen desorbing characteristics.

9. (Withdrawn) The method for outputting a signal representing a residual fuel cell capacity according to claim 6, wherein the outputting step produces different output signals depending on a plurality of pressure equilibrium states occurring according to the hydrogen desorbing characteristics of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys.

10. (Withdrawn) The method for outputting a signal representing a residual fuel cell capacity according to claim 6, wherein the outputting step produces signals representing pressure variations in response to changes in a plurality of pressure equilibrium states occurring according to the hydrogen desorbing characteristics of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys.

11. (Currently Amended) An electronic device capable of detecting a residual capacity of a fuel cell device, the fuel cell device including a tank section for accommodating a first hydrogen storage alloy having a first hydrogen desorbing characteristic and a second hydrogen storage alloy having a second hydrogen desorbing characteristic which is different from the first hydrogen desorbing characteristic, and a power generating section for generating electric power by using hydrogen desorbed from the tank section, comprising:

a pressure detecting unit for detecting a pressure of the hydrogen supplied to the power generating section, ~~the pressure detecting unit detects a first pressure equilibrium state of the first hydrogen desorbing characteristic and a second pressure equilibrium state of the second hydrogen desorbing characteristic;~~

a comparing unit for comparing (i) the pressure of the hydrogen detected by the pressure detecting unit with a pressure of a first pressure equilibrium state of the first hydrogen desorbing characteristic and comparing (ii) the pressure of the hydrogen detected by the pressure detecting unit with a pressure of a second pressure equilibrium state of the second hydrogen desorbing characteristic;

a residual amount detecting unit for detecting a residual hydrogen amount based on comparison results of the comparing unit ~~by using the first pressure equilibrium state or the second pressure equilibrium state which are detected by the pressure detecting unit;~~ and
a control unit which operates with the electric power supplied from the power generating section.

12. (Previously Presented) The electronic device capable of detecting a residual capacity of a fuel cell device according to claim 11, wherein the first and second hydrogen storage alloys are accommodated in the tank section such that a mixing ratio of the first and second hydrogen storage alloys can be changed.

13. (Previously Presented) The electronic device capable of detecting a residual capacity of a fuel cell device according to claim 11, wherein the tank section has a first space for accommodating the first hydrogen storage and a second space for accommodating the second hydrogen storage alloy, the first and second space are independent each other.

14. (Original) The electronic device capable of detecting a residual capacity of a fuel cell device according to claim 11, further comprising a display unit for displaying a residual hydrogen amount based on a detection result obtained by the residual amount detecting unit.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a residual fuel cell capacity of an electronic device including a tank section for accommodating a plurality of hydrogen storage alloys

having mutually different hydrogen desorbing characteristics and a power generating section for generating electric power by using hydrogen desorbed from the tank section, comprising:

a pressure detecting step of detecting a pressure of the hydrogen supplied to the power generating section;

a residual amount detecting step of detecting a residual hydrogen amount by using pressure variations caused on the basis of hydrogen desorbing characteristics of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys which are detected in the pressure detecting step; and

a control step of causing a control section to operate with the electric power supplied from the power generating section.

16. (Withdrawn) The method for detecting a residual fuel cell capacity of an electronic device according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys are accommodated in the tank section such that a mixing ratio of the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys can be changed.

17. (Withdrawn) The method for detecting a residual fuel cell capacity of an electronic device according to claim 15, wherein the tank section has a space for independently accommodating the plurality of hydrogen storage alloys having the different hydrogen desorbing characteristics.

18. (Withdrawn) The method for detecting a residual fuel cell capacity of an electronic device according to claim 15, further comprising a display step of displaying a residual hydrogen amount based on a detection result obtained in the residual amount detect step.

19. (New) The electronic device capable of detecting a residual capacity of a fuel cell device according to claim 11, wherein the comparing unit further compares the pressure of the hydrogen detected by the pressure detecting unit with a predetermined shutdown pressure, which is smaller than the pressure of the second pressure equilibrium state and larger than zero.